

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 171

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Hunter Garstin for his tenacity in the face of adversity.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those citizens of this State who, though they are beset with unimaginable obstacles and hardships, inspire others through their relentless drive to overcome; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Hunter Garstin, a senior at Independence High School in Williamson County, who has been relentless in his journey toward recovering from devastating physical limitations; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2013, Hunter was a freshman competing on his school's wrestling team in a meet at Huntsville High School in Alabama; while grappling with an opponent during a match, he lost his footing and fell backwards onto the mat, causing his head and upper body to bend forward. The opponent landed on Hunter's neck; and

WHEREAS, immediately after the freak accident occurred, Hunter Garstin knew something was wrong; he had no feeling or ability to move from his neck down; and

WHEREAS, Hunter had dislocated the C-6 vertebra at the base of his neck, rendering him paralyzed from the neck down; he underwent emergency surgery to fuse the C-6 and C-7 vertebrae, and a few days later, he was transferred to Shepherd Center in Atlanta, where he underwent intensive rehabilitation therapy; and

WHEREAS, now that he has returned home to Franklin, Hunter Garstin continues a physical therapy program, working six days a week with his trainer, Mark Davenport, at the local YMCA; and

WHEREAS, through his single-minded determination and fierce work ethic, Hunter has surpassed all expectations for his recovery; he has use of his upper body and has some

sensation in his legs. He does not yet have the strength to stand, but he is doing everything he can to acquire that strength; and

WHEREAS, Hunter Garstin is a true inspiration to those who find themselves on the receiving end of life's tragedies; he is a young man who refuses to relent, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Hunter Garstin for his tenacity in the face of adversity, extending our sincerest wishes for his continued recovery and every success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.